

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NDJAME 03309 241118Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 PC-01
EB-08 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
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O 221220Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7996
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY KAHRTUUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 3309

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, PGOV, CD, LY
SUBJECT: ALEDG AGGREETMENT BETWEEN CHADIAN GOVERNMENT
AND HISSEN HABRE

1. SUDANESE PRESS AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN CHADIAN GOVERNMENT AND HE FORCES OF HISSEN
HABRE HAS NOT YET BEEN CARRIED BY CHADIAN MEDIA,
ALTHOUGH IT IS THE TALK OF THE TOWN. THE AGREEMENT
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PAGE 02 NDJAME 03309 241118Z

ALLEGEDLY CALLS FOR A STEP BY STEP DISSOLUTION OFHBM
THE SUPREME MIBTLRLJQTOUNCIL, THE DESIGNATION OF A
PRESIDENT OF THE REPULBIC, AND THE FORMATION OF
A NEW GOVERNMENT MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE TWO GROUS. IT PROVIDES FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS
TO ESTABLISH A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, REORGAINZATION
OF THE ARMED FORCES, IMPROVEMENT OF THE SOCIALA

AND ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE ADOPTION OF ARABIC AS A NATIONAL LANGUAGE IN ADDITIONN TO FRENCH.
IT ALSO CALLS FOR ADHERENCE OF OTHER FORCES OF OPPOSITION TO THE AGREEMENT.

2. THE AGREEMENT MAY SOUND MORE FAR REACHING THAN IT WILL ACTUALLY PROVE TO BE, ALTHOUGH ITS ANNOUNCEMENT IS AT LEAST ONE FORWARD STEP. FOR INSTANCE, WHILE THERE IS MUCH TALK ABOUT QUOTE NEW UNQUOTE PRESIDENT, MALLOUMS ACCEPTANCE OF AN INVITATION TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO CHINA IN SEPTEMBER INDICATES HE INTENDS TO BE THE PRESIDENT. ONLY SIGN THAT AGREEMENT REALLY MAY MOVE THINGS FORWARD IS A CRYPTIC REMARK MADE BY KAMOUKUE TO A FOREIGN MINISTRY STAFF GATHERING EARLIER THIS WEEK TO THE EFFECT THAT THIS WOULD BE THE LAST TIME THEY WOULD ALL BE TOGETHER (HE DIDN'T INDICATE WHICH PART OF THE GATHERING MIGHT BE LEAVING OR FOR WHERE).

3. TIMING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS STRANGE: (A) IT OCCURRED ON THE EVE OF PRESIDENT MALLOUMS DEPARTURE FOR A RATHER MYSTERIOUS VISIT TO BANGUI, AND DURING ABSENCE OF VICE PRESIDENT FROM COUNTRY. THUS, HARD LINER KAMOUKUE IS LEFT IN CHARGE DURING PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT (A TESTING CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 NDJAME 03309 241118Z

PERIOD OF INTERNAL REACTIONS?); (B) FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAYS THAT HE SAW PRESIDENT MALLOUM LATE YESTERDAY EVENING AND NO MENTION WAS MADE OF THE IMPENDING ANNOUNCEMENT (A SHOW OF INDEPENDENCE FROM FRENCH?); AND (C) FAILURE OF CHADIANS TO MAKE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR OWN WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN COVERING NEGOTIATIONS CLOSELY IN PUBLIC.

4. RUSH VISIT MALLOUM TO BANGUI IS EQUALLY MYSTERIOUS, AS SHOWN BY FACTS THAT CAE AMBASSADOR FIRST HEARD OF TRIP YESTERDAY, DELEGATION INCLUDES SUCH UNLIKELY MEMBERS AS CHADIAN AMBASSADOR TO PARIS AND ELIE ROUMBA, DIRECTOR OF DEBT SETTLEMENT FUND (BOTH POSSIBLE MEMBERS OF NEW GOVERNMENT), AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (A NORTHERNER AND ONE OF FREQUENT NEGOTIATORS WITH REBELS) WAS ADDED TO DELEGATION A FEW HOURS BEFORE DEPARTURE. MOST OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS BELIEVES TRIP IS COVER FOR SOME SORT OF NEGOTIATIONS, BUT IT IS UNCLEAR WITH WHOM.

5. ALL OF FOREGOING MAY REPRESENT NOTHING

EXCEPT AFRICAN COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS, BUT IT
LEAVES US WITH THE FEELING THAT, AT PRESENT, WE
ONLY KNOW PART O F THE STORY. BRADFORD

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